



June 19, 2013

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Rahall:

Thank you for highlighting the need to invest in repairing deficient bridges across the country with the introduction of H.R. 2428, the Strengthen and Fortify Existing Bridges (SAFE) Act of 2013.

As we highlighted in *The Fix We're In For: The State of Our Nation's Bridges 2013*, one in nine bridges – 66,405 in total nationwide - remain structurally deficient. Laid end-to-end, all the deficient bridges would span from Washington, DC to Denver, CO – more than 1,500 miles.

We currently under invest in transportation and are falling further behind as our system continues to age. The average age of bridges is 43 years, only 7 years short of the 50-year design lifespan of most bridges. The \$2.75 billion authorized by the SAFE Bridges Act will help to rehabilitate and reconstruct structurally deficient bridges across the country.

We are happy to see the SAFE Bridges Act highlight the importance of dedicated funding for bridge repair. While states have made significant progress in improving their bridge conditions since 1992, progress has slowed significantly. In fact, the rate of improvement during the last four years is one-third of the rate from 1992 to 1996.

We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation that will take the important steps to address our nation's backlog of deficient bridges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "JaC", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Coreless
Director

Transportation for America (T4 America) is the largest, most diverse coalition working on transportation reform today. We believe it is time for a bold new vision — transportation that guarantees our freedom to move however we choose and leads to a stronger economy, greater energy security, cleaner environment and healthier America. We're calling for more responsible investment of our federal tax dollars to create a safer, cleaner, smarter transportation system that works for everyone.